

The History and Formation of Departmental Libraries at the University of Illinois



Old Main
1867-1873

University Hall
1873-1897

Library Building/Altgeld Hall
1897-1928

Main Library
1928-Present

1873 Architecture Library begins in Nathan Ricker's Office and spreads to 4th floor of Engineering Hall



1917 renamed Ricker Library

1928 Ricker Library moves into current Architecture Building

1878 Harker Hall opens and the Chemistry Library begins



1901 Chemistry moves to the Noyes Laboratory

1885 State Laboratory of Natural History Library moves into the Natural History Building, the library began in Normal, IL in 1861

1917 renamed Illinois Natural History Survey



A few recurring themes...

- Departmental libraries often form in faculty offices, for example the Mathematics and Architecture Libraries
- Other collections separate due to overcrowding and a need for space of their own, such as Classics and Modern Languages
- Still others are moved to make it more convenient to laboratory spaces, like Chemistry
- While some libraries move back into the main library when the new building is complete, a few libraries remain completely independent during their entire history, such as the Law Library

1897 Law School & Library open in University Hall

1901 moves to Harker Hall



1928/29 moves into Altgeld Hall

1901 Pedagogical Library begins in University Hall

1909 moves to Lincoln Hall, renamed Philosophy, Psychology, & Education

1928/29 moves to Main Library

1907 Agriculture Library opens in the Farm Mechanics Building, soon renamed Agricultural Engineering building



Pre-1908 Mathematics library begins in Natural History Building

1928/29 moves into Altgeld Hall

1909 Collections in Modern Language, English, Classics, Economics & Sociology, History & Political Science, housed in departmental offices move to Lincoln Hall

1928/29 All move to Main Library



This list represents a portion of all departmental libraries at the time. Please see the full report for complete list of departmental libraries and references.